Alaska State Legislature

Representative Lora Reinbold
House District 14
CS Sponsor Statement for House Joint Resolution 13

"Urging the United States Department of the Army to maintain and strengthen the current level of its combat-capable structure in the state and not to take structural realignment actions with regard to Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson."

House Joint Resolution 13 supports maintaining current Alaska Army personnel levels at Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The Department of the Army, pursuant to P.L 112-25 (Budget Control Act of 2011), has been tasked with reducing costs and reducing active duty personnel. Thirty military installations across the United States are currently being evaluated, including Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Nationally, Army active duty personnel may be reduced from 570,000 to 450,000. In Alaska, Fort Wainwright may lose up to 5,800 military and civilian positions. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson may lose up to 5,300 military and civilian positions.

HJR 13 recognizes the national interest in reducing costs, however, it also recognizes how truly unique the military installations in Alaska are. Army Major General William "Billy" Mitchell (who is credited for being "the father of the Air Force") famously said:

> I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the most important strategic place in the world.

That quote rang true during Major General Mitchell's life (December 29, 1879 – February 19, 1936), and rings true today.

Alaska, using northern routes, connects three continents. Army personnel located in the state can get to many places around the globe, quickly. In those instances, the military can "make things happen." Or, importantly, "prevent other things from happening." Having a presence in Alaska, especially at places like Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson can shape events.

Please join Representative Reinbold in supporting HJR 13